

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Previously presented): A method for continuously coating cores of gum material to provide a smooth, thick shell of coating material thereon comprising:

- (a) introducing sheets of gum material into a mixer;
- (b) rotating said mixer to break up the sheets of gum material into individual cores of gum material;
- (c) applying one or more layers of a coating material on said cores of gum material inside said rotating mixer;
- (d) continuously transferring said cores of gum material into an inlet end of a rotating drum member;
- (e) transporting the cores of gum material from said inlet end to an outlet end of said drum member such that the first cores of gum material introduced into said inlet end are substantially the first cores of material to be exhausted from said outlet end;
- (f) applying a plurality of layers of a coating material on said cores of gum material inside said drum member as the cores proceed from said inlet end to said outlet end;
- (g) drying each of said coated layers of coating material on said coating cores of gum material by circulation of heated air inside said drum member; and
- (h) inclining said drum member relative to the horizontal in order to insure that the first cores of gum material introduced into said inlet end of said rotating drum member are substantially the first cores of gum material to be exhausted from said outlet end of said drum member;

wherein a smooth, thick shell of substantially uniform thickness of coating materials is formed on each of said pieces of gum material comparable to coatings formed by batch-type coating processes, and in a faster manner.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The method of continuously coating cores of gum material wherein said coating material is a material containing a gum Arabic material.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The method of continuously coating cores of gum material as described in claim 14 wherein the gum Arabic material is approximately 1% by weight of said coating material in the initial layers of coating material, and reduced to approximately 0.25% by weight of said coating material in subsequent layers of coating material.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method of continuously coating cores of gum material as described in claim 15 wherein said coating material is a sugar syrup material.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The method of continuously coating cores of gum material as described in claim 13 wherein the sheets of gum material in step (a) are scored sheets of gum material.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): A method for continuously coating cores of gum material to provide a smooth, thick shell of coating material thereon comprising:

- (a) continuously introducing cores of gum material into an inlet end of a rotating drum member;
- (b) transporting the cores of gum material from said inlet end to an outlet end of said drum member such that the first cores of gum material introduced into said inlet end are substantially the first cores of material to be exhausted from said outlet end;
- (c) applying a plurality of layers of a coating material on said cores of gum material inside said drum member as the cores proceed from said inlet end to said outlet end;
- (d) drying each of said coated layers of coating material on said coating cores of gum material by circulation of heated air inside said drum member, wherein said heated air is dehumidified prior to introduction into said drum member; and

(e) inclining said drum member relative to the horizontal in order to insure that the first cores of gum material introduced into said inlet end of said rotating drum member are substantially the first cores of gum material to be exhausted from said outlet end of said drum member;

wherein a smooth, thick shell of substantially uniform thickness of coating materials is formed on each of said pieces of gum material comparable to coatings formed by batch-type coating processes, and in a faster manner.